

H-2100 MEDICAID PURCHASE PLAN for workers with disabilities**H-2110 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-170) became law on December 17, 1999. This legislation allowed states to adopt the option of allowing individuals with disabilities to purchase Medicaid coverage that is necessary to enable such individuals to work.

Act 207 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2003 of the Louisiana Legislature directed the Department of Health and Hospitals to implement a buy-in program for working persons with disabilities using the provisions of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act effective January 1, 2004.

To qualify for Medicaid Purchase Plan coverage, an individual must:

- have a physical or mental impairment at least equal to a medical condition identified in SSA's Listing of Impairments (SGA is not a factor)
- be employed
- be at least age 16 but not yet age 65
- have individual countable income less than 100% FPL
- have individual countable assets less than \$10,000 and
- take no-cost health insurance, if available.

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Enrollees are eligible for full Medicaid coverage.

Note:

Eligibility for this program terminates the month the enrollee turns age 65.

Link to Procedures: [Premium Based Programs](#)

H-2120 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-2120.1 Determine Assistance Unit

The assistance unit consists of the applicant/enrollee.

H-2120.2 Establish Categorical Requirement

Verify that the applicant/enrollee:

- is at least age 16 but not yet 65 (See [E-210](#) for sources.)
- has a physical or mental impairment at least equal to a medical condition identified in SSA's Listing of Impairments (Refer to [E-0000, Category](#)), and
- is employed or self-employed.

There is no minimum work or earnings requirement. Employment is defined as a reasonable work effort for which a person receives financial compensation and pays all applicable federal, state, and payroll taxes. If tax withholding amounts are not available, do not deny coverage.

Note:

An individual must be employed or self-employed at the time of the certification start date. If employment is lost for any reason following certification, eligibility may be continued for up to 6 months, as long as the individual intends to return to the workforce. If the individual is no longer working at the time of initial certification, and does not intend to return to the workforce, then certify the individual in a limited MPP certification period with a retroactive close date.

H-2120.3 Establish Non-Financial Eligibility

Verify eligibility for the applicant/enrollee with regard to the following factors:

- Assignment of Third Party Rights [I-200](#)

- Citizenship/Alien Status [I-300](#)
- Enumeration [I-600](#)
- Residence [I-1900](#)
- Health insurance coverage - verify eligibility and coverage for no-cost health insurance such as Medicare Part A and certain employer sponsored group health plans.

H-2120.4 Establish Need

A. Determine Composition of the Income/Resource Unit

The income/resource unit consists of the:

- applicant/enrollee,
- applicant/enrollee and ineligible spouse living in the home, or
- applicants/enrollees who are a couple.

Note:

If SSA considers as a couple for SSI, they are considered as a couple for Medicaid.

B. Determine Need/Countable Resources

Determine total countable resources of the resource unit. Income received in any month does not become a resource until the following month. Refer to [I-1630, Need - SSI-Related Resources](#).

Compare countable resources to the MPP resource limit of \$10,000.

If resources are greater than the limit, the applicant/enrollee is ineligible for MPP.

If resources are equal to or less than the limit, the applicant/enrollee is resource eligible for MPP. Continue the eligibility determination process.

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C. Determine Need/Countable Income

Determine total countable income of the income unit. Refer to [I-1530 through I-1536 – SSI Related Income](#).

Budget Steps:

Individual

If the applicant/enrollee is an individual with no spouse or with an ineligible spouse with no income, compare to MPP standard for one. Complete the following budget steps:

- Step 1. Determine total unearned income.
- Step 2. Subtract \$20 SSI general income disregard.
- Step 3. Determine total gross earned income.
- Step 4. Enter any known taxes withheld from the applicant/enrollee's income. If the applicant/enrollee is self-employed and files taxes, request a copy of the W-2 from the most recent fiscal year.
- Step 5. Subtract any remainder of \$20 SSI general income disregard from gross earnings.
- Step 6. Subtract the SSI earned income deduction from the remaining gross earnings. The earned income deduction is \$65 and one half of the remainder of the earnings.
- Step 7. Combine remainders from Step 3 and Step 6.
- Step 8. Compare total to 100% FPL for a household of 1. Refer to MEM [Z-200](#).

If the remainder is over the maximum allowable income limit, the applicant/enrollee is ineligible for MPP.

If the remainder is equal to or less than the maximum allowable income limit, the applicant/enrollee is income eligible for MPP. Continue with the eligibility determination process.

Ineligible Spouse Deeming

If there is an ineligible spouse with income, complete budget steps

1 through 8 above using only the applicant/enrollee's income. If the income is greater than the limit for 1, the applicant/enrollee is ineligible and there is no deeming. Consider for MNP.

If the applicant/enrollee's income is less than or equal to the MPP limit for 1, apply deeming policy in MEM I-1420.

Eligible Couple

If both members of a couple are potentially eligible, complete the following steps:

Step 1. Determine the countable unearned income. For a couple, combine all unearned income.

Step 2. Subtract one \$20 SSI disregard per income unit, if applicable.

Step 3. Determine total gross earned income by combining the couple's gross earned income.

Step 4. Subtract any remainder of \$20 SSI disregard from gross earnings.

Step 5. Subtract one earned income deduction from remaining gross earnings of the income unit. The earned income deduction is \$65 and one half of the remainder of the earnings.

Step 6. Combine the remainders in Step 2 and Step 5.

Step 7. Compare total to 100% FPL for a household of 2. Refer to MEM [Z-200](#).

If income is greater than the allowable income limit, the applicant/enrollee is ineligible for MPP.

If the income is less than **or equal to** the MPP standard for a couple, the applicant/enrollee is income eligible.

Exception:

If a couple and both MPP applicants/enrollees are receiving Waiver services, consider income using the method that is most advantageous.

If one spouse is in a nursing facility or receiving Waiver

services and the other spouse is at home and not receiving Waiver services, consider income of each individual separately.

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H-2120.5 Eligibility Decision

Evaluate all eligibility requirements and verification received to make the eligibility decision to either reject, close, certify, or continue eligibility.

H-2120.6 Certification Period

An MPP certification period shall not exceed twelve months. **

Link to Training: [MPP Certification Process in MEDS](#)

H-2120.7 Retroactive Eligibility

Coverage can start as early as three months before application as long as all eligibility requirements ** are met.

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H-2120.8 Notice of Decision

Send the appropriate notice of decision to the applicant/enrollee